

GOOD READING

Sponsored by

WESTERN CANADIANA CLUB



The Western Canadiana Club is a group of public-spirited Alberta citizens who have voluntarily undertaken to purchase yearly two books containing authentic historical material about our early days. By so doing they reduce the risks involved in marketing books of this nature, encourage authors to collect facts about the growth of the West, and finally, make it possible not only for our young people now growing up but also for newcomers to the West to learn how this country came to be as it is today.



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Edmonton

"These books feature authentic and vivid descriptions of dramatic events and fascinating people of the early days in Western Canada."

You are invited to add these books to the Western Canadiana section of your library. By doing so you will assist in getting into print more of the story of the early West while many who were part of the story are still with us.

EYE OPENER BOB, by Grant MacEwan

This is a carefully documented biography of one of Alberta's "Prize Personalities." It is the story of the life and times of the fabulous Bob Edwards, editor of the famous (and to some, the infamous) Calgary Eye Opener. According to one reviewer "the best recommendation you can give this book is buy it, read it and enjoy it. You'll be sorry when you've no more to read."

For years, Bob Edwards was the West's most controversial character, and even after his death in 1922, the arguments about his qualities continued to rage. That he made his mistakes and rather many of them, nobody could deny; he drank too much whiskey, as he readily admitted; he wrote some editorial rubbish, and he recorded a few stories which should have been omitted from the columns of his famous paper. But whatever sins have been laid at his door his heart was big; his mind was clear; and altogether, he was a most fascinating part of early Alberta.

227 pages, photograph of R. C. Edwards by H. Pollard of Calgary.

CLOTH BOUND \$3.75



VICE-REGAL COWBOY, by A. W. (Tony) Cashman

"Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable J. J. Bowlen, is a big man physically and much bigger still in terms of achievement. The story of his life is the story of how the Canadian west was built—by men big in mind and heart who believed in hard work and in taking risks and in putting their beliefs into practice with extraordinary results. Thus, "Tony" Cashman of Edmonton gives us two great stories in one: the story of his subject's life and in a thoroughly representative way the story of the building of the west. His book is one of the most absorbing volumes that has appeared in many years" The harshness of those days—in "Irish" Boston, in early Manitoba and Saskatchewan and Alberta—is vividly depicted; and likewise, the toughness of the self-made men who emerged from the struggle with their principles uncompromised and their fortunes made. J. J. Bowlen was one of them; and what a hard-working, adventurous and wonderful life he led. In reading Mr. Cashman's account of it, anyone who has grown up in the comparatively "soft" conditions of recent decades—that is, apart from war—is bound to acquire a new respect for the builders of the west." I.C.M. The Edmonton Journal, December 21, 1957.

199 pages, 25 illustrations.

PAPER COVER \$2.50

CLOTH BOUND \$4.00



BLANKETS AND BEADS, by James G. MacGregor

"BLANKETS AND BEADS" is a history of the Saskatchewan River and Valley. It is an authentic record of significant episodes in the discovery, exploration and development of the Canadian West. The chapter headings include—The River, Indians, The North-West Passage, Exploration of the Saskatchewan, The Fur Trade, Some Great Fur Traders, Alexander Henry the Younger, Famous Posts and Forts, Fort Edmonton, Travelling on the Saskatchewan, Bloodshed, Missionaries, North-West Rebellion, Farming and Settlement.

278 pages, 19 illustrations, 4 maps, 3-page table of posts and forts.

PAPER COVER \$2.00

CLOTH BOUND \$3.75

THE LAND OF TWELVE-FOOT DAVIS, by James G. MacGregor

This second book by Mr. MacGregor provides the significant facts about the early beginnings of the Peace River and the early development of the Peace River Country. It is not only an authentic record of the outstanding episodes of its discovery, exploration and development, but is rich in vivid descriptions of things and people. Throughout there is a spirit manifest that makes the sensitive reader resolve some day to visit this magnificent river and the country it serves.

The chapter headings include—The Peace River Country, Discovery by the Fur Traders, Alexander MacKenzie, The Tramp of Armed Men, The Forks and Peace River Town, Dunvegan, Fort St. John, Dunvegan Again, Missionaries, Steamboats, The Athabasca Trail, Klondikers, Lesser Slave Lake—Grouard, Grande Prairie and The Edson Trail, Land of Friendliness.

395 pages, 30 illustrations, also maps and tables.

PAPER COVER \$2.75

CLOTH BOUND \$4.50



THE WHOOP-UP TRAIL, by Gerald L. Berry

"THE WHOOP-UP TRAIL" had its origin in the History Department of the University of Alberta, in that it is drawn in large part from the thesis, "Alberta-Montana Relationships," submitted by the author in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the M.A. degree. In so far as it is history, the sources have been carefully searched, the conflicting evidence weighed and conclusions drawn.

"The Whoop-Up Trail" is a fascinating treasure chest of stories from the most colorful days in Canada's most colorful Province. It tells how Southern Alberta came to be. It paints a dramatic procession of Indians, explorers, traders and police. It records the gradual settlement by merchants, miners, ranchers and farmers. It describes the transition from surveyor to farmer, buffalo hide to wheat, prospector to driller, and from the wildest kind of gun rule to law and order.

144 pages, 16 illustrations, tables, bibliography, index.

PAPER COVER \$2.00

CLOTH BOUND \$3.50



BEHOLD THE SHINING MOUNTAINS, by James G. MacGregor

Besides being an account of the travels of Anthony Henday, 1754-55, the first white man to enter Alberta, this book includes some excellent descriptions of Central Alberta as things were in Henday's time and as they are now.

Mr. MacGregor has used Henday's original Journals to trace out Henday's route mile by mile west to Saskatoon, then south of Battleford and into Alberta. Near Stettler, Henday crossed the Red River and then went west to Pine Lake to the great Blackfoot Camp of 322 shining white tipis. From a hill near Innisfail, a few days after leaving the Blackfoot camp, Henday had his first view of the Rocky Mountains.

This fascinating account of the first white man to visit Alberta is accurate history with the sure touch of the careful student of the early days, and combined with a deep love of the rolling plains, the rustling parklands and the shining mountains of Western Canada.

276 pages, 27 illustrations, 6 maps, index.

PAPER COVER \$3.25

CLOTH BOUND \$4.75

FIRST IN THE WEST, by James W. Whillans

"FIRST IN THE WEST" is the story of Henry Kelsey, a young apprentice employed by the Hudson's Bay Company, who journeyed from York Factory on Hudson Bay in the company of strange Indians westward out of Manitoba and across Saskatchewan over 265 years ago.

"First in the West" is a tale well told. The style is pleasing, and the argument of the author in the interpretation of the Kelsey record is convincing. He reveals Kelsey as an alert and willing apprentice, a courageous and competent explorer and traveller, a capable navigator, a successful trader, negotiator and wise administrator. Kelsey's childhood and the circumstances of his later life are shrouded in mystery, but Mr. Whillans has presented him as an authentic personality and the peer of other better-known explorers who risked great hazards in their penetration of the frontier.

175 pages, 27 chapters, 5 maps, index.

PAPER COVER \$2.00

CLOTH BOUND \$3.50



THE EDMONTON STORY, by A. W. (Tony) Cashman

This is a collection of seventy-six colorful stories of personalities and events drawn from early days in Edmonton. These word-sketches have been selected from Tony Cashman's "THE EDMONTON STORY," a series heard regularly over CJCA on the Gainer Program. In presenting these vivid pictures from Edmonton's past, we have preserved the author's racy and amusing style. And of equal importance, we have endeavoured, by careful selection and checking, to ensure that the historical material is both significant and authentic.

If you have lived in Edmonton for some time, you will be at home in this book. You will recognize, with a reminiscent chuckle, or perhaps with a wistful pause, many of the people and incidents described; and you will find yourself recalling many a half-forgotten page of your life. If you are a newcomer, you will get a "feel" for our town that you couldn't possibly get otherwise.

284 pages, colored frontispiece, 19 illustrations, index.

PAPER COVER \$2.75

CLOTH BOUND \$4.50



MORE EDMONTON STORIES, by A. W. (Tony) Cashman

To the seventy-six stories contained in "The Edmonton Story", Mr. Cashman has added in "More Edmonton Stories" some sixty-two additional accounts of personalities and events drawn from early days in Edmonton.

261 pages, 6 illustrations

PAPER COVER \$2.50

CLOTH BOUND \$4.00



CALGARY CAVALCADE – From Fort to Fortune,

by Grant MacEwan

About Calgary, there is something different. Nestling in the shadow of the Canadian Rockies, it must be seen as a story-book city. Hence, Grant MacEwan's work, CALGARY CAVALCADE – From Fort to Fortune, will be welcomed as an important addition to a growing list of books about Canada.

Even in the account of its origin as an outpost for the North West Mounted Police there is romance and fascination. And during the years when the community was growing away from the banks of the two mountain rivers, it witnessed many of the most exciting scenes in pioneer farming, ranching, journalism, oil exploration, rodeos and politics.

Backed by a good deal of research, the author describes clearly the uneasy relationships with nearby Indians, the birth of civic government, the coming and going of bull-trains, the arrival of the railroad, the "dark days of '85" and numerous other gripping subjects pertaining to the early days.

Town incorporation came nine years after the fort was built and city status after another ten years. Growth was rapid, but the place did not lose its unique frontier character made indelible by ranchland influence. There came the unparalleled real estate boom, the discovery of oil at Turner Valley and, ultimately, the phenomenal expansion accompanying the new oil and gas economy.

But as the author shows clearly, Calgary's crowning distinctiveness was in its personalities—colorful people like George Murdock, who was the first mayor; Sam Livingstone, with the courage to farm nearby while the buffalo were still numerous; Colonel James Walker, whose fingers were in about everything of consequence; Sir James Lougheed, with vision of Calgary greatness; R. B. Bennett, who became Prime Minister Bennett; "the commanding William Pearce"; Dr. George Kerby, who founded a college; Guy Weadick of Stampede fame; Bob Edwards of the Calgary Eye Opener; the inimitable Paddy Nolan; big-hearted Pat Burns — and a host of others.

This MacEwan book describes the highlights of the years between a remote fort built for police use and a modern city with population exceeding 200,000. Moreover, it proves that local history can be lively and interesting as well as valuable. Students of the Canadian scene will wish to have this book.

246 pages, 6 illustrations, index

"Age will not make of this book a brittle group of yellow leaves revealing the reminiscent thoughts of bygone generations, it will remain forever a document to be enjoyed, and a volume to be relied upon for verification of countless facts."—J. G., Calgary Albertan.

CLOTH BOUND \$4.00



BOY IN BUCKSKINS, by Iris Allan

Here is a book primarily written for juveniles, but one that all adults interested in our early Canadian west will also enjoy. It tells the story of young John McDougall when he first arrived in this district, at that time a part of the great Northwest Territories. This was in 1862, and the story follows his life for a ten year period; just before his ordination as a minister.

Iris Allan has chosen to write in the popular style, one that will appeal to the young reader, at the same time keeping the book historically correct.

Here is a vivid picture of the entire family of the famous Reverend George McDougall, pioneer missionary, and the very first white people to settle here. Chapters on buffalo hunts, famous Indians, and the terrible small pox epidemic of 1870-71 are all graphically told.

This book answers a long-felt need for a tale about "one of our own heroes"; and of true adventure. A story for every young Westerner's book-shelf, aged from eight to eighty.

160 pages, 10 illustrations.

PAPER COVER \$2.00

CLOTH BOUND \$3.25

FUR TRADE GOVERNOR, by J. W. Chalmers

For nearly forty years a little red-headed Scot ruled, almost single-handedly, one-quarter of the North American continent, from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Ocean, from the American border to the shores of the Arctic Sea. This is the story of "the Little Emperor," who was accused of being "in league with the princes of the powers of the air." This is the tale of a counting-house clerk, born on the wrong side of the blanket, who was knighted by his Queen and entertained the Prince of Wales on his own estate.

He was a man of strange contradictions. Inured to all the hardships of the fur trade, his love of display led him to import a kilted Highland piper attended him in his journeys across the West. Ruthless in business, he could not see even his enemies sink to penury. Harsh to his subordinates, he could still joke with the youngest fur trade apprentice. Conscientious in meeting the demands of his halfbreed children, after ten years of living with their mother, he turned his back on her to wed his cousin twenty-odd years younger than himself, and sired another family.

Probably few have been feared and admired, despised and respected, loved and hated as Sir George Simpson. Yet despite his faults and shortcomings, no other man did more to frustrate American dreams of empire in our West, that it might fulfil its ultimate and Canadian destiny.

Ready Fall 1960.

PAPER COVER \$2.~~75~~ ⁵⁰

CLOTH BOUND \$4.00



JOHN WARE'S COW COUNTRY, by Grant MacEwan

John Ware's Cow Country is a biography of a great and lovable Negro rancher and a description of ranching on the Canadian foothills and plains when the industry was at its greatest extension.

Not only is the book a contribution to the recorded story of Western Canada but it conveys needed lessons about human relations and brotherhood. Here is the narrative of a Negro slave, who after gaining freedom, rode into the North West Territories and remained to overcome handicaps and win success, respect and affection. It is a tribute to the pioneer ranchland community as well as to the man.

Although shunned on the occasion of his first visit to Calgary, his inherent friendliness and commanding performance in a saddle triumphed over prejudice, and his funeral there in 1905 was the biggest and finest expression of public sentiment seen in the city up to that time.

Notwithstanding comparatively early death, his life coincided closely with the golden years in Canadian ranching. After entering the country with the first cattle for the Bar U, he was a spectator or participant in nearly all the stirring events which made early ranching one of the most glamorous chapters in Canadian history.

He wasn't one of the biggest ranchers in the West but with the physical strength of a giant, the riding skill of a champion, and the warmth of a friend, he did become one of the best known personalities in the range country.

Moreover, John Ware's Cow Country is an authentic success story; it is the story of a boy denied all opportunity for schooling—didn't even have shoes on his feet until he was 20 years of age — but who possessed ambition and purpose and succeeded in becoming a notable ranchland success as well as one of the most loved of the pioneers.

Ready Fall 1960.

PAPER COVER \$2.~~75~~ ⁵⁰

CLOTH BOUND 4.00

WEST OF THE FIFTH, by Walker and McPherson

This is the story of the settlement of the country now known as Lac Ste. Anne Municipality No. 93. The material was gathered by mailing or delivering questionnaires to all known pioneer residents of the area. The information thus obtained was organized under the chapter headings appearing in the book—Background; Early Lac Ste. Anne; Trails, Stopping Places and Ferries; First Settlers; Agriculture; First Homes; Recollections of Women and Children; Freightage; Mail Carrying; Roads and Railroads; Churches; Schools; Medical Agencies; Industries; Social Life; Reminiscences, Anecdotes and Miscellany.

233 pages 8½ x 11". Two illustrations (Peter Gunn and Trail Map)

ATTRACTIVE BLUE CLOTH COVER AND DECORATIVE JACKET \$5.00



RED CROSS LADY, by Barbara Villy Cormack

This is the life story of Mary H. Conquest, M.B.E., intrepid Scots gentlewoman, graduate of St. Andrews University, who traded city living in London for the rugged country on the western plains in the early days of the century. Her story is intermingled with the beginnings of the Canadian Red Cross in the west, — the establishment of the first Red Cross outpost hospital, and the work of the organization among the settlers. Later came the further achievements of Red Cross, in depression and later, war.

It is the story too of the romantic beginnings of radio, its impact on city and country, and its experimental struggles.

In addition it is the story of the victory of a courageous and indomitable spirit over severe physical handicaps, — the story of a gallant woman, blessed with a rare sense of humour, whose courage and cheerful enthusiasm was a constant source of inspiration to those who knew her both in person and on the airways.

Approximately 100 pages. Four illustrations

PAPER COVER \$2.00

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